

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 18, 2008

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On February 29, 2008, European leaders joined together in celebrating the job creation and economic stimulus created by the award of the \$35 billion KC-X Next Generational Aerial Refueling Tanker contract to the European Aeronautic Defence and Space (EADS) Team. Today, those same European leaders are pressuring our government to stick with this disastrous choice under the guise of trans-Atlantic harmony. We hope you will reject all outside pressure and ensure a completely fair process. Given the faltering economy here in the United States, the US Government awarding a contract to EADS as an economic stimulus package for Europe is unconscionable.

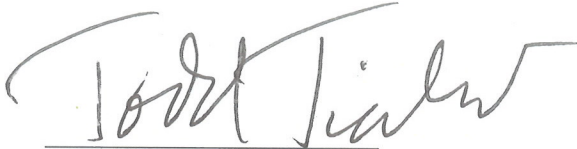
The European motivation is clear: boosting European jobs. The EADS Team KC-X proposal would lead to the creation of at least 35,000 European jobs at the expense of at least 20,000 American jobs. Given their burdensome regulations and anti-business labor policies, European governments are taking extra measures to maintain and create jobs in Europe. Similar to the illegal subsidies and launch-aid provided to Airbus, European politicians bypass fair and open competition in support of European jobs.

In the United States, however, we hold dear the basic tenets of a fair and open competition. Yet, though European governments routinely consider industrial base in their national security acquisition decisions, the United States Defense Department refuses to account for industrial base and even waives costly regulations for European companies. We have already gone too far in accommodating our allies, yet some in Europe want the Defense Department to go further and re-write the KC-X Tanker Request for Proposal to ensure EADS is given the contract.

We trust you will do everything in your power to ensure the KC-X Tanker competition is fair. The Request for Proposal must not be changed to benefit Europe. Although our current acquisition system already favors foreign competitors, our American workers are counting on you and your team to maintain what fairness is left in our system.

We look forward to working with you and Secretary Gates to ensure a fair and open KC-X Tanker competition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Tiahrt", written over a horizontal line.

Todd Tiahrt
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Norm Dicks", written over a horizontal line.

Norm Dicks
Member of Congress